

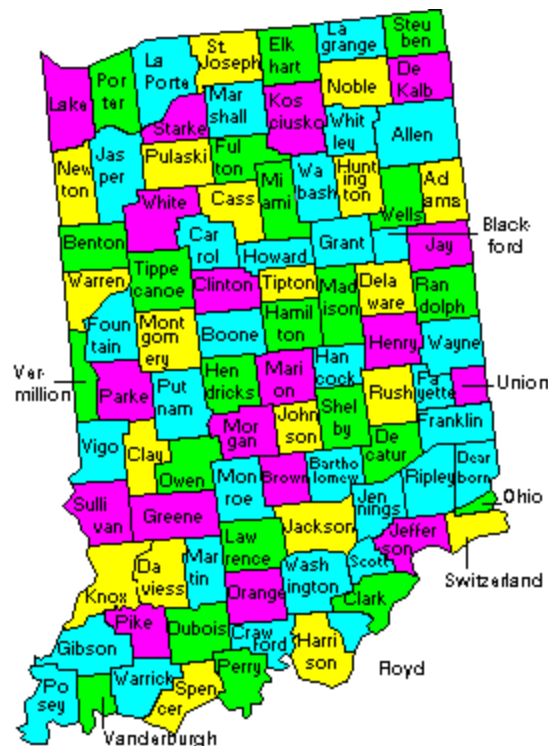
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Gary, Indiana

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Gary, Indiana

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics

- Population: ~100,000¹
- Race: 16% white; 81% African American²
- County: Lake County
- Lake County Population: 475,594³
- Lake County Race/Ethnicity: 70% white; 25% African American; 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 0.6% Asian/Pacific Islander; 4.4% other race; 9.4% Hispanic⁴

Politics⁵

- Mayor: Scott L. King

Programs/Initiatives

- Lake County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in 1996, the Lake County HIDTA is located in the northwest corner of Indiana. Gary is among the three largest cities that this HIDTA serves. Found within this area are major rail yards, truck depots, the Port of Indiana and the Gary Airport. Lake County's proximity to larger metropolitan areas, its economic problems and the infiltration of street gangs have made it the off ramp for drug trafficking.
- FY99 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁷
 - \$100,000 to Tree of Life Community Development Corporation and Care Center of Gary
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed (EOWS)⁸
The Target Area for the Gary Weed and Seed is the Horace Mann neighborhood. Emphasis will initially be placed on addressing chronic violence and drug activity within this area. Then, the focus will shift to seeding the Target Area to improve the overall standards of living for residents.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- From January through April of 1999, the Gary Police Department arrested 196 adults for drug abuse violations. The majority of those arrested were arrested for possession.⁹

Adults Arrested for Drug Abuse Violations, Gary, 1998

Type of Offense	January	February	March	April
Sale/Manufacturing	10	14	18	5
Possession	15	43	43	48
Total Arrests	25	57	61	53

- During this same time, the Gary Police Department arrested 17 juveniles for drug abuse violations.¹⁰
- Since the Lake County HIDTA's inception, it has made over 1,100 arrests, and during 1998, disrupted or dismantled 166 Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs).¹¹
- Currently in Gary, an estimated 90 street gangs, with over 4,000 members, vie through open warfare for control of more than 300 crack houses.¹²
- The Lake County HIDTA has worked with local police to reduce the homicide rate in this area by 40% since 1995. Despite this, the city of Gary still has one of the highest per capita murder rates in the country. It is estimated that approximately 65% of these murders are drug-related in some way.¹³

Homicide Rate in Gary, 1995-99

Year	# of Homicides
1995	130
1996	107
1997	99
1998	78
1999	75

- Since 1997, there have been dramatic decreases in the number of reported serious crime offenses in Gary.¹⁴

Reported Serious Crime Offenses, Gary, 1997-99

Offense	1997	Year 1998	1999	% Change 1997-1999
Murder	98	79	74	-24
Rape	141	75	26	-81
Armed Robbery	471	351	325	-31
Aggravated Battery-Firearm	418	325	159	-62
Aggravated Battery-Stabbing	94	75	31	-67
Burglary	2,456	1,806	1,932	-21
Auto Theft	2,320	1,727	1,361	-41

Drugs¹⁵

- Crack cocaine has been reported to be the drug of choice within Lake County. Street gangs orchestrate the street-level distribution of this drug in Gary.
- Lake County is a major distribution point for shipments of bulk marijuana and cocaine destined for the Midwest.
- A growing methamphetamine production and importation industry in Indiana also presents an increasing threat to the Lake County area.

Trafficking and Seizures¹⁶

- During 1999, the Lake County HIDTA seized 1,025 pounds of cocaine, 3,000 pounds of marijuana, 163 guns, and over \$2 million in U.S. currency and assets.
- Added to the first two years of this HIDTA's operation, the total seizures are as follows: over 1,137 pounds of cocaine; 4,757 pounds of marijuana; and \$2.6 million.

Enforcement

- HIDTA Initiatives¹⁷
 - Gary Response Investigative Team (GRIT): This is an FBI-led multi-jurisdiction task force with a mission to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) responsible for the violence, homicides, and drug-related crime found in Gary.
 - Drug Demand Reduction Program: The Indiana National Guard and Lake County HIDTA have combined efforts to provide schools and children with various activities and mentoring programs to be used as alternatives to drugs. The National Guard also trained local high school students to perform a Drug Demand Reduction puppet show for 22 grade schools found in Gary.
- As of October 31, 1998, Gary has 324 full time law enforcement employees. 250 of these are sworn officers and 74 are civilians.¹⁸

¹ Gary Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Census Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Indiana Web site: <http://www.state.in.us>

⁶ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

⁷ Drug-Free Communities Grantees:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>

⁸ EOWS Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁹ Gary, Indiana Police Department

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Indiana Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana: <http://www.state.in.us/cji>

¹⁵ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

¹⁶ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

¹⁷ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta.html>

¹⁸ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999:

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>

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